

~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY	USSR (Odessa Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	4. Large Soviet Naval Force Moored in Odessa Roadstead.	DATE DISTR.	19 September 1955 25X1
		NO. OF PAGES	4
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] ship passed Smeiny Island on 21 July 1955, at 2000 hours, while bound for Odessa. Bright swaths of light from sources widely scattered about the sea north, west, and east of [redacted] ship searched the sky and sea; they continued to operate throughout the hours of darkness. [redacted] these searchlights were mounted on vessels which were operating in a darkened-ship condition since they could not be seen. 25X1
2. At 0530 on 22 July, there were two battleships anchored in the outer harbor at Odessa. One was probably of the PARIZHSKAYA KOMUNA Class, and the other, the former Italian ship CAVOUR. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The former was easily recognizable by its sharply raked funnel. 25X1
This vessel was displaying an ensign which was a white rectangular field with a blue lower border and two insignia not further identified, but there was some gold embroidery in the upper left (sic) corner². 25X1
The vessel carried the armament [redacted] as well as every modern means of navigation, including radar.
3. There were at least 2000 men aboard this vessel; a good number of them were lined up on the deck. Between the hours of 0600 and 0800, they performed collective diving and swimming exercises. Each section dived in perfect unison at command and swam to a designated point so that letters of the Cyrillic alphabet were formed on either side of the battleship.
4. At about 0800 hours, a fast patrol vessel left the harbor with a small target in tow and disappeared in an east-southeast direction. Meanwhile a vessel of some 3000 DWT, with a hull shaped much like a large barge, a funnel amidships, and considerable white-painted superstructure, was moving from one berth to another in the port area with the aid of tugs. [redacted] it must have been a barracks ship. From the head of Vorontsovskiy Pier southward there were rows of small buoys in more or less regular alignment.
5. At about the same time some flights of three fighters each circled overhead; their speed indicated that they were jets. They flew at a 25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	EV	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC									
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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great altitude and left milky trails in the clear morning sky. The trails did not disintegrate for several minutes.

25X1
25X1

6. The number of merchant ships in the harbor was small and traffic was somewhat lighter than usual. There were an undetermined number of Soviet ships. In the open storage area near the Customs House, near the coaling pier, there were huge piles of coal, considerable amounts of iron and steel products, cotton bales, bundles of wooden axles, cases containing machinery, etc.

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On the head of this pier was a red light with a visibility of approximately 15 miles which had been installed in a recently built tower.

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7. The outer roadstead was choked with warships moored to the small buoys. They were formed in a double line of heavies from the southern pierhead southward about three miles.

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vessel was obliged, therefore, to head northeastward to clear the formation, and thence to follow a southerly course along the eastern side of it. The naval force consisted of more than 100 vessels. After the battleships, previously described, there were eight cruisers, possibly of the KIROV Class, but there may have been some older cruisers with three funnels, such as the AVRORA Class. About twelve light cruisers or scout ships followed, among which was a vessel thought to be of the former Italian CONDOTTIERI Class. About fourteen destroyers in two lines of seven each were moored in the rear of the lines of heavies. Outboard of the two center lines were sixteen coastal destroyers, followed by the same number of minor units similar to US minesweepers of the BIMS Class. Outboard of these lines were two lines composed of some 24 submarines of heavy and medium tonnage, all awash. Finally the outboard lines were composed of some 30 small submarines, about 13 meters long, fully surfaced with their nine-man crews assembled on deck. To the south of the moored force were about ten submarine chasers moving around as if screening the formation. Farther south was a buoy to which a few motor boats were moored. (See attached sketch).

25X1

8. During the passage of ship along the side of the formation a submarine chaser, which apparently carried someone of importance, was passing between the two lines of major vessels on a northerly course. The crews of the vessels rendered honors as the submarine chaser passed. The crews wore summer uniform and rendered the honors with the faultless precision that only comes of discipline and training. Review notwithstanding, the vessels answered the salutes rendered by ship; a sailor was promptly released from ranks to perform this duty.

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- 1.

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2. Comment: This was probably the flag of the Minister of Defense.

25X1

Comment: "hoist" rather than "left".

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the flag could be

25X1

the flag of the Minister of Defense.

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However, it must be borne in mind that Soviet vessels, honored with such awards as the Order of Lenin, also display an ensign which has gold embroidery in the upper hoist corner.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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25X1

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Sketch of naval force moored in Odessa Roadstead:

vessel's track

Battleships

Large Cruisers

Coastal
Destroyers

Small
Submarines

Minesweepers

Smaller Cruisers

Destroyers

Large Submarines

Buoy with
motorboats

Submarine chasers

S-E-C-R-E-T

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